

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 177749

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SYRIANS SEE MIXED SIGNS FOR POLITICAL PROGRESS IN
LEBANON

FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM TOLD AMBASSADOR MURPHY JULY 15
THAT HE BELIEVED KEY LEBANESE, PALESTINIAN AND ARAB LEAGUE
ELEMENTS WANT TO WORK SERIOUSLY TOWARD A SOLUTION. THE
FOREIGN MINISTER ELABORATED:

--ONLY IRAQ AND LIBYA OPPOSED THE SYRIAN POSITION AT
THE LATEST ARAB LEAGUE MEETING.

--THE CHRISTIANS ARE DEFINITELY READY FOR DIALOG.

--HOWEVER, JUMBLATT AND FACTIONS OF FATAH, THE PFLP
AND THE PDFLP OPPOSE TALKS AND SEEK TO CONTINUE THE
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PAGE 02 STATE 177749

CRISIS.

IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER HAYDAR
ALSO EXPRESSED GUARDED OPTIMISM:

--THE CHRISTIANS BELIEVE MARONITE UNITY WOULD GIVE
THEM AN ADVANTAGE AT THE BARGAINING TABLE.

--THE PALESTINIANS ARE TIRED OF FIGHTING AND NOW REA-
LIZE THAT PLO MARXISTS SUCKED THEM TOO FAR INTO JUM-
BLATT'S LEFTIST COALITION AND INTO LEBANESE POLITICS.

--JALLUD MADE AN INITIAL CONTRIBUTION AS A MEDIATOR
BUT HAS BECOME INEFFECTIVE.

--THE USSR, THE ONLY POWER OUTSIDE THE MIDDLE EAST
WHICH STANDS TO GAIN BY CONTINUATION OF THE LEBANESE
CRISIS, BLUNDERED IN ATTACKING SYRIAN EFFORTS.
(SECRET) DAMASCUS 4640 AND 4639, 7/16.)

2. PERUVIAN CABINET RESIGNS

EMBASSY LIMA REPORTS THAT PRIME MINISTER FERNANDEZ MALDONADO
AND THE ENTIRE CABINET RESIGNED JULY 16 FOR REASONS THAT
REMAIN UNCLEAR. TIGHT SECURITY PRECAUTIONS WERE TAKEN AS
PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ NAMED A NEW GOVERNMENT HEADED BY
GENERAL ARBULU GALLIANI. IN THE WEEK PRIOR TO ITS RESIGNA-
TION, THE FERNANDEZ GOVERNMENT HAD:

--PROHIBITED ALL STRIKES AND REAFFIRMED ITS BAN ON
POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND LABOR MEETINGS; AND

--FORCEABLY RETIRED GENERAL BOBBIO, COMMANDER OF THE
MILITARY INSTRUCTION CENTER, FOR ALLEGED REBELLION.

EMBASSY COMMENT: AT ITS END, THE FERNANDEZ GOVERNMENT
FOUND POPULAR SUPPORT FOR THE MILITARY AT ITS NADIR AND
FACED CONSIDERABLE DISCONTENT WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES OVER
THE BOBBIO INCIDENT. (CONFIDENTIAL) LIMA 6444 AND 6536;
(UNCLASSIFIED) LIMA 6534, 7/16.) KISSINGER

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